

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /006 W

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R 111206Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3140

UNCLAS BEIRUT 8169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASUM, SY

SUBJECT: USINT DAMASCUS VEHICLES

REF: STATE 132876, 120561; BEIRUT 7267, 8050

1. GM REPRESENTATIVE ADVISES THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY BUY REPLACEMENT VEHICLE FROM LOCAL STOCK IN BOND EXCEPT FOR LEBANESE POUNDS OR DOLLAR PRICE CONVERTED FROM POUNDS AT PREVAILING RATE OF EXCHANGE. HE HAS SEVERAL 1973 6-CYLINDER, 4-DOOR IMPALA CHEVROLET SEDANS AVAILABLE WITH POWER STEERING, POWER BRAKES, RADIO, AND MANUAL TRANSMISSION. PRICE 11,000 LEBANESE POUNDS OR \$4,783 AT TODAY'S RATE OF 2.30 L.L. TO \$1. WANTS ANSWER WITHIN ONE WEEK.

2. CHRYSLER DEALER HAS SEVERAL 1973 DODGE CORONET CUSTOM 4-DOOR SEDANS WITH SIMILAR EQUIPMENT. HE IS WILLING ACCEPT \$4,600 AS FIRM PRICE PAYABLE IN DOLLARS. OFFER GOOD ONLY FOR 10 DAYS.

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, RATE OF EXCHANGE SUBJECT CONSIDERABLE FLUCTUATION IN LEBANON WITH GENERAL DOWNWARD TREND. PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED RATE OF 2.30 PROBABLY WILL NOT HOLD. THIS FACT, PLUS LOWER PRICE, WOULD SEEM MAKE CHOICE DODGE CORONET.

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE SECOND VEHICLE ASSIGNED USINT DAMASCUS, A 1969 LOCALLY PROCURED CHEVROLET STATION-WAGON, NOW INOPERATIVE DUE BROKEN AXLE. USINT CHIEF, DR. CARDILLI, HAS NOW REQUESTED THIS EMBASSY AND ITALIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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F.O. TAKE ACTION REPLACE STATIONWAGON AS WELL. THERE IS

OUTSTANDING ORDER PLACED THROUGH LOCAL GM DEALER FOR
REPLACEMENT AXLE, BUT IT APPARENTLY HAS GONE ASTRAY. EMBASSY
HAS NOW HAD GM SEND TRACER ON ORDER,BUT IT COULD BE SEVERAL
MONTHS BEFORE PARTS ARRIVE.

5. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS LOCAL PROCUREMENT DODGE CORONET AND
HOLD ON REPLACEMENT STATIONWAGON UNTIL DETERMINATION CAN BE
MADE O I TIME NEEDED ACCOMPLISH REPAIRS.
BUFFUM

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